

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted preliminary to the issuance of an Office Action in the present application and in response to the Official Action of May 26, 2009.

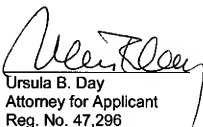
Record is also made of a telephone interview between applicant's representative and the Examiner which took place on July 22, 2009. The Examiner is thanked for her help and assistance as well as for the courtesies extended to Counsel at that time. During the course of the interview, the present application was extensively discussed in light of the final rejection of claims 2, 4, 6, and as a result of the interview, applicant now submits amendments to claim 6 which are drawn up in accordance with the discussion at the interview. In addition, a new claim 7 is submitted to encompass the full scope and breadth of the invention.

The Examiner agreed that the subject matter of claim 6 appears to be distinguishable over the prior art of record; however, an updated search is needed to make a final determination about patentability of independent claim 6 and claims 2, 4, 7 dependent thereon. Support for the subject matter of claim 7 can be found, for example, by a comparison of Figs. 1 and 2.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is considered patentably differentiated over the prior art of record and believed to be in immediate conditions for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are thus respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner consider necessary or desirable any formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims and/or drawing, then it is respectfully requested that such changes be made by Examiner's Amendment, if the Examiner feels this would facilitate passage of the case to issuance. If the Examiner feels that it might be helpful in advancing this case by calling the undersigned, applicant would greatly appreciate such a telephone interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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